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W. H. Whitmore

# RECORD OF THE DESCENDANTS

OF

# ANDREW BELCHER.

Author. Sept. 73.

By W. H. WHITMORE.

Reprinted from the N. E. Historical and Genealogical Register for July, 1873.

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RECORD OF THE DESCENDANTS OF ANDREW BELCHER.

# PEDIGREE OF BELCHER.

Copied from the Collections of Robert Dale, Suffolk Herald, now in the College of Arms.

[*Vide* C. 14, 102.]

Robert Belcher, of Kingswood= in Com. Wilts, weaver, dec'd.

Mr. Tho. Belcher, of the City of London, cloth-worker (pinmaker), died about the year 1618. Bound 9 Jan. 2 Jac. 1604. Cloth-worker made free 8 May 1612. =Anne, dau. of Andrew Solme, of Sandon, in co. Essex, marr. to Tho. Belcher at Sandon, 29 Jan. 1613. =Nathaniel Allen, Rector of Danbury, in co. Essex. 2d husband.

1 ——, dau. of —— Parish, originally of Dedham, in Com. Suff. =Andrew Belcher, settled in New-England, and d. about the year ——

2 =Elizabeth, dau. of ——, of ——, in co. Essex.

John Belcher, of Danbury, in Essex, born about the year 1615; died about the year 1672, aged 57 ann. =Martha, dau. of —— Raymond, a near relative of Oliver Raymond, of Waller Belchamp, in Com. Suff., Esq. Kynardesley.

Elizabeth, m. to Tyam Blower, of Cambridge, in New-Eng.

Jemima, m. to Joseph Sill, of Cambridge, in New-Eng.

Martha, m. to Jonathan Remington, of Rowley, in New-Eng.

Anna, m. to Sam'l Ballet of Chester Town, in New-Eng.

Andrew Belcher, of Boston, in New-Eng., æt. 58 anno 1704. =Sarah, dau. of Jonathan Gilbert, of Hartford, in New-Eng.

Ebenezer, died young.

John Belcher, of Danbury, in Com. Essex, anno. 1704 æt. c 40 an. =Sarah, dau. of William Chalke, of Good Easter in Com. Essex.

Martha, marr.

Elizabeth, marr. —— Willis, now at the Hague in Holland.

Hannah, died unm.

Andrew, died unm.

Sarah, m. 1st, Joseph Lynde of Charlestown, in New-Eng. 2d to John Foye, of Boston, in New-Eng.

Elizabeth, w. of Daniel Oliver, of Boston, in New-Eng.

Mary, w. of George Vanghan, of Portsmouth, in New-Eng.

Jonathan Belcher, eldest son, anno 1704 æt. 22.

Anna, m. Oliver (Noyes,) of Boston, in New-Eng.

Martha, unm. æt. 18.

Deborah, d. an infant.

——, eldest son.

——, 2d son,

Sarah, 1st dau.

Martha, 2d dau.

——, 3d dau.

# NOTES ON THE BELCHER FAMILY.

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By the kindness of a member of the Belcher family resident in England, I am enabled to print a document prepared in 1704, which throws some light upon the ancestry of one of the early colonists. To it I have added various notes on those generations of the Belchers which resided in New-England; facts which will be of interest to many descended maternally from this distinguished family. W. H. Whitmore.

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It seems that Andrew Belcher, the emigrant, and his brother John Belcher, of Danbury, co. Essex, were the sons of Thomas Belcher, of London, clothworker, and grandsons of Robert Belcher, of Kingswood, co Wilts, weaver. It is suggested that this Robert was a younger son of the Belchers of Guilsborough in Northamptonshire, a point worthy of farther examination.

Andrew Belcher, it seems, had two wives; the first being the daughter of ——, parish of Dedham, co. Essex, who probably died *s. p.* before her husband emigrated.

Little seems to be known of the emigrant, except that in 1652 he was licensed to "sell beer and bread for entertainment of strangers and the good of the town," as Harris records (*Camb. Epitaphs*). His second marriage, to Elizabeth Danforth, shows that he was in good standing; her brothers being Deputy Gov. Thomas Danforth, Rev. Samuel Danforth, of Roxbury, and Jonathan Danforth, of Billerica, whose wife was Elizabeth Poulter, sister of the John Poulter who married Rachel Eliot, niece of the Rev. John E. The children of (1) Andrew[1] Belcher, by his wife Elizabeth daughter of Nicholas Danforth, of Framingham, co. Suffolk and Cambridge, Mass., whom he married Oct. 1, 1639, were as follows:—

i. Elizabeth,[2] b. Aug. 17, 1640; m, Pyam Blowers, March 31, 1668.
ii. Jemima,[2] b. April 5, 1642; m. Joseph Sill, Dec. 5, 1660.
iii. Martha,[2] b. July 26, 1644; m. Jona. Remington, July 13, 1664.
iv. Mary,[2] m. Joseph Russell, June 23, 1662.
2. v. Andrew,[2] b. Jan. 1, 1647–8.
vi. Ann,[2] b. Jan. 1, 1649–50; m. Samuel Ballard, May 1, 1678.

There seems some doubt as to the date of Andrew Belcher's death. HARRIS says that his grave at Cambridge is designated only by a footstone, marked "A. B.," placed beside that of his wife. Her tomb-stone is inscribed as follows.

We are inclined to read it that the widow died at the above date, and not the husband as SAVAGE gives it; but our readers can judge:

"Here lyeth burried
Ye body of ELIZABETH
BELCHER, who was
formerly the wife of
ANDREW BELCHER late
of Cambridg deceased
who departed this life
June ye 26, 1680
Ætatis sua 62."

SECOND GENERATION.

2. ANDREW[2] BELCHER, only son, was of Cambridge, but married at Hartford, and there had some of his children born. His wife, whom he married July 1, 1670, was Sarah, daughter of Jonathan Gilbert,* marshal of that colony. Their children were:—

Andrew,[3] d. unmarried.
Sarah,[3] m. first, Joseph Lynde, of Charlestown; second, John Foye, of Boston.
Elizabeth,[3] b. Jan. 12, 1678; m. Daniel Oliver.
Mary,[3] b. March 7, 1680; m. George Vaughan, of Portsmouth.

3. Jonathan,[3] b. Jan. 8, 1682.
Ann,[3] b. March 30, 1684; m. Oliver Noyes.
Martha,[3] b. March 29, 1686.

This Andrew[2] was a member of the council from 1702 to 1717, and as ELIOT says, "was the most opulent merchant in the town of Boston, a man of integrity and honor, a friend to religion and learning." He died Oct. 31, 1717; his wife died Jan. 26, 1689.

In regard to the character of Andrew Belcher, Jr., we will here add the testimony given by his son Gov. Jonathan B., in the letter already printed in the REGISTER, xxiv. 19, 20.

*Extracts from a Letter from Gov. Belcher to Mr. Prince.*

SIR,

* * * * What you desire respecting my deceas'd Father[1] and myself is a difficult Task and I know not when I shall be able to undertake it. For altho' this be a little Governm^t yet it calls for much attention and attendance for the King's honour and for seeking the good and Welfare of the People and my Large Correspondence to N. England and larger than heretofore to great Britain keeps me In full Imploye. These things notwithstanding If you would tell me your Design and State any Questions to me I would Indeavour to answer them. My Father was as great a Genius as his Countrey could boast of but wanted an Education to Improve and polish it. (Gov. Dudley) who was a good Judge used to say M^r Comissary Belcher would make a good Minister of State to any Prince in Europe Especially in the Article of Finances. His late Farewell and Blessing of me show'd his strong thoughts and great modesty. Its fresh in my Memory and will

* It will be noted that Andrew married Sarah Gilbert in 1670; in 1678 his sister Ann married Samuel Ballard; and in 1689 Belcher's brother-in-law married Ballard's daughter by a first wife.

be till the Frost of Age seals up that Faculty he called me to his Bedside took me by the hand and said—Son you may expect me to bless you in a better manner and style than I am able to do for God did not put it into your Grand Fathers power to give me the Education he Inabled me to give you, but remember my Last Words to you are—*May the Blessing of the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob rest upon you and your seed for Ever. Amen. Farewell.*

Neither the Patriarchs nor Apostles could have done it better. Just as he was Expiring the Blanket was offensive to His Face so he rais'd himself a little from his Pillow and Said to the Late Madame Sewall who watcht with him give me the sheet for it is my winding Sheet then he unroll'd his arms in it and said I will lay me down and dye in Peace and expir'd in a minute.

I should not have Troubled you with this Acc° but as it may make some Little part of an answer to what you have desired. * * * *

I thank you for the Sermon preacht upon the death of my Late dear and Excellent Sister* which has given me much pleasure in read^g. * * * *

Rev^d and Worthy Sir

Very much your Friend and servant

J. Belcher.

Burlington,
July 7, 1748.

Mr. Prince.

(By Mr. Brandon.)

THIRD GENERATION.

3. Jonathan[3] Belcher was graduated at Harvard College in 1699. He travelled abroad for many year ; became a merchant in Boston, and was soon conspicuous in political life. He was a member of the council, 1722-23, 1726-27, and in 1728 was sent as agent to England. He was commissioned Governor of Massachusetts Jan. 8, 1729-30, and arrived here 10th August following. He held office for eleven years, but of course became unpopular, and was succeeded by William Shirley, May 16, 1741. Hutchinson gives many interesting facts in regard to Gov. Belcher, and shows that he was the victim of a political intrigue. In 1747 he was made Governor of New-Jersey, an office which he filled till his death, Aug. 31, 1757. His successor there was Francis Bernard, who, three years later, also became Governor of Massachusetts.

Gov. Jonathan[3] Belcher married, first, Mary, dau. of Lt. Gov. William Partridge, of New-Hampshire, and had :

4. Andrew,[4] b. Nov. 17, 1706.
   Sarah,[4] b. April 22, 1708 ; m. Byfield Lyde, Aug. 17, 1727.
5. Jonathan,[4] b. July 23, 1710.
   William,[4] b. April 12, 1712.
   Thomas,[4] b. May 13, 1713.

* Martha Belcher, sister of Gov. Belcher, was born March 20, 1686. She married Anthony Stoddard, Esq. See *Stoddard Family*, ed. 1849, p. 5, and ed. 1865, p. 3. She died Feb. 11, 1747-8. Rev. Mr. Prince preached a sermon on the sabbath after her funeral, which was printed in 1748.

His wife d. Oct. 6, 1736, and he married Sept. 9, 1748, Mary-Louisa-Emilia Teal, at Burlington, N. J., who survived him, but by whom he had no issue.

FOURTH GENERATION.

4. ANDREW[4] BELCHER, oldest son of the Governor, lived at Milton. ELIOT says of him: "He possessed a handsome property without much patriotick zeal or literary taste." He was of Har. Coll. 1724, member of the council 1765-7, and died in Milton, Jan. 24, 1771.

His wife, who survived him, was —— ——.

He was, I presume, Register of Probate in Suffolk county, 1739—1754.

5. JONATHAN[4] BELCHER, the second son of the Governor, H. C. 1728, studied the law, and was one of the early settlers at Chebucto, now Halifax. He was Chief Justice and Lieut. Governor of Nova Scotia. ELIOT says of him: "He was a man of excellent habits, prudent, upright, of great political integrity. His prejudices were much in favor of New-England."

He married (see Giles Memorial, p. 263-4), April 8, 1756, at King's Chapel, Boston, Abigail, dau. of Jeremiah Allen. Their children, all born in Halifax, were:—

Jonathan,[5] b. Jan. 22, 1757; d. Aug. 26, 1757.
Gilbert-Jonathan,[5] b. May 17, 1759; d. Aug. 31, 1763.
Mary-Emilia-Elizabeth,[5] b. June 3, 1760; m. Dr. Thomas-Lindall Jennison, and left issue.
Abigail,[5] b. Nov. 12, 1761; d. Sept. 6, 1766.
6. Andrew,[5] b. July 22, 1763.
Jonathan,[5] b. Aug. 14, 1765; d. June 29, 1772.
William-Jeremiah,[5] b. May 7, 1770; d. May 8, 1770.

He died March 29, 1776, and was fortunately spared the necessity of choosing between his native country and that of his adoption.

FIFTH GENERATION.

6. ANDREW[5] BELCHER, only representative of the name in the male line, was a member of the council of Nova Scotia. He married Marianne, dau. of Friederich von Geyer, of Boston, and had:—

7. i. Alexander-Brymer,[6] b. June 22, 1794.
ii. Marianne-Margaretta-Vesey,[6] b. April 29, 1796; d. Feb. 4, 1812.
iii. Friedrich-William,[6] b. July 12, 1797; d. Aug., 1833.
8. iv. Edward,[6] b. Feb. 27, 1799.
9. v. Andrew-Herbert,[6] b. Feb. 19, 1804.
vi. Catherine,[6] b. May 9, 1806; m. Charles Marryatt, M.P. and had, among other children, the late well-known author, Capt. Frederick Marryatt,
vii. George-Berkeley,[6] b. June 16, 1807; d. unm. Sept. 10, 1860.
viii. John-Douglas,[6] b. ——; d. young.
ix. Emily-Murray,[6] b. Nov. 20, 1808; m. Rev. Henry-Andrew St. John, and d. 1835, leaving issue.
x. Eleanor,[6] b. March 2, 1813; m. first, Rev. W. Cogswell, and had issue; and second, Major John-Claridge Burmester.
xi. Charlotte-Frances-Wentworth,[6] b. ——; d. young.

Andrew[5] Belcher died at Boulogne, Nov. 17, 1841.

SIXTH GENERATION.

7. ALEXANDER-BRYMER[7] BELCHER, of Rochampton, married Maria, dau. of Joseph Alcock, Esq., of Putney, and had:—

(10) i. Brymer,[7] b. Nov. 13, 1819.
ii. Frederick-Joseph,[7] b. Aug. 19, 1821; of the 66th foot; d. unm. Aug. 28, 1841.
iii. Martin,[7] b. 1813.
iv. Helen-Jane,[7] d. young.
v. Marietta-Louisa,[7] b. 1826.
vi. Adelaide,[7]
vii. Jenet,[7] d. young.
viii. Henrietta,[7] b. 1832.

Alexander-Brymer[7] Belcher, d. Feb. 8, 1848.

8. Sir EDWARD[6] BELCHER, K. C. B., Rear-Admiral R. N., &c., a well-know naval officer, whose services in every quarter of the world will be found recorded in the journals of the time, married in 1830 Diana Jolliffe.

9. Rev. ANDREW-HERBERT[6] BELCHER, m. in 1829, Julia, dau. of Ralph Wilson, of Islip, and had:—

i. Andrew-Holmes,[7] b. 1830.

He died Nov. 20, 1829.

SEVENTH GENERATION.

(10.) Rev. BRYMER[7] BELCHER, M. A., of Wadham Coll., Oxford, and Incumbent of St. Gabriel's, Pimlico, married first, June 7, 1849, Clara-Catherine, dau. of John Mullins Sandham, Esq., and had:—

i. Augustus-Brymer,[8] b. ——; d. 1851.
ii. Andrew-Brymer,[8] b. ——; d. 1856.
iii. Gilbert-Edward,[8] b. July 9, 1854.
iv. Mary-Catherine,[8] b. April 30, 1850.
v. Catherine-Brymer,[8] b. March 19, 1857.

His wife died March 26, 1857, and he m. second, July 27, 1858, Mary, dau. of James Townson, Esq., of Jamaica, and has:—

vi. Mabel-Dorothy,[8] b. July 1, 1859.
vii. Hugh-Walter,[8] b. July 7, 1860.
viii. Edmund-Charles,[8] b. May 12, 1862.

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NOTES TO THE FOREGOING PEDIGREE.

1.

The English pedigree printed at the commencement of this article has on it the following notes by Dale, I presume, referring to Robert Belcher, the first name on the tree:

1st. "Qu. If not 2d brother to William Belcher, of Gillesborough, in Com. North'ton, married Christiana dr and hr of Tho. Dabridgcourt, of Langdon Hall, in Com. Warr. Died 5 April, 1609."

2d. "Qu. If not 2d son to Will Belcher, of Guilsborough who married Eliz, dr and hr to Tho: Rainds and Margaret, dr of —— Kinnersley, of Salop."

3d. "Let Mr. John Belcher, now of Danbury, set down his father and grandfather's name and places of residence, with their matches and issue as far as he can remember, and also whether they have any Coat of Arms, and whatr as well as he can describe it, but specially let him punctually enumerate how the relation stands between him and the present Mr. Andrew

Belcher, of New-England, in point of descent. Also if the family have been of any continuance at Danbury; an extract of all their marriages, christenings and burials will be acceptable and of use in the further settlement of this affair."

2.

It is to be remembered that though this family can be traced so clearly, there were various other Belchers here, not connected with Andrew, so far as we know. SAVAGE enumerates Edward, of Boston, 1631; Gregory, of Boston, whose son Josias was b. in the Granary, April 3, 1683, aged 52; Jeremy, of Ipswich; all of whom seem to have left numerous descendants.

3.

As to the arms of the family it is shown in the *Heraldic Journal*, ii. 62, that the governor's father, he himself, and his son, all used the coat of the Belchers of Gilsboro', co. Northampton, viz.: "*Or*, three pales gules, a chief vairé. Crest, a grey-hound's head ermine, gorged with a collar gules, rimmed and ringed *or*."

It may be worth noticing that heraldically the arms of the United States, viz.: "paly of thirteen argent and gules, a chief azure," bear a stronger resemblance to the arms of Belcher than they do to those of Washington. The colors indeed are different and the number of pales is doubled. Yet the principle of the two coats is identical. The Washington arms are as different as possible, having no chief, and having bars instead of pales, *i. e.* horizontal stripes instead of perpendicular ones. Although our national flag may be founded on the Washington coat of arms, it is certain that our national seal is not; for as the difference between a bar and a pale is one of the greatest possible in simple shields, any such change destroys the identity of coats.

4.

In regard to the Geyer or von Geyer family the following notes may be of interest. The first of the name was a late emigrant hither, and the tradition is that he was of a good family in Germany. The record stands as follows:—

Frederick W. Geyer, m. Susannah Ingraham, April 30, 1767; she d. Sept. 25, 1796, and had:—

i. Thomas, d. 1800.
ii. John J., d. Dec. 18, 1808.
iii. Mary Ann, m. Sept. 7, 1792, Andrew Belcher, and had issue.
iv. Charlotte. m. Dec. 17, 1789, Joseph Marryatt, and had: Maria, Charlotte, Joseph, Frederick, Charles, Fanny, Ellen, George, Horace and Samuel.
v. Catherine, m. July 8, 1802, Nathaniel Tucker, and had: Charlotte M., m. Geo. W. Sumner; Marion B., m. Rudolph Geyer; Nathaniel A., m. Maria Deming; Catherine G., m. James J. Cutler; Anna A., m. Henry A. Green; Nathaniel A., d. unmarried.
vi. Frederick W., m. Jan. 13, 1793, Rebecca Frazier, and had: Elizabeth; Rodolph, m. Mary B. Tucker, his cousin; Frederick W., d. young.
vii. Susan G., d. March 7, 1802.
viii. Mary, m. Feb. 13, 1794, Rufus G. Amory, and had: Rufus G.; Ann G., m. Dr. John Jeffries; Catherine, m. Lewis Cunningham; Susan G., m. Wm. Freeman; Adeline, m. Linzee Cunningham; Charlotte M.